To: R7 Daily Digest INBOX[R7_Daily_Digest_INBOX@epa.gov]

From: Bryan, David

Sent: Fri 9/11/2015 8:19:33 PM **Subject:** OPA Daily Digest for 9/11/15

OPA Daily Digest for 9/11/15

Upcoming EPA Region 7 Events by Division

* New additions noted with an asterisk

RA:

9/12/15 - Healthy Rivers Partnership Cleanup Event, Parkville, Mo. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

*9/14/15 – Meet with Ann Dunkin, EPA Chief Information Officer, Regional Office. Contact: Julie Cacho, 7071

9/14/15 - HUD Resiliency Summit, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Monica Espinosa, 7541

9/15/15 - Iowa Clean Water Rule Meeting, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Karen Flournoy, 7782

*9/17/15 – Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative Annual Meeting, Dubuque, Iowa. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364

9/22/15 - Missouri Department of Natural Resources All-Kitchen Cabinet Meeting, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

9/23/15 – Courtesy Visit with Columbia city officials and Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Columbia, Mo. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

9/29/15 – Memorandum of Agreement signing with Donnelly College, Regional Office. Contact: Greg Davis, 7208
*10/28/15 – Nebraska 2015 Power Summit, Lincoln, Neb. Contact: Curtis Carey, 7506
*10/29/15 – Regional Recognition Ceremony, Regional Office, Contact: Monica Espinosa, 7541
*11/12/15 – National Association of Farm Broadcasters Convention, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Damon Frizzell, 7560
DRA:
*9/14/15 – Meet with Ann Dunkin, EPA Chief Information Officer, Regional Office. Contact: Julie Cacho, 7071
9/15/15 - Meet with Inspector General Arthur Elkins, Regional Office. Contact: Renee McGhee-Lenart, 7534
9/29/15 – Memorandum of Agreement signing with Donnelly College, Regional Office. Contact: Greg Davis, 7208
10/29/15 – Regional Recognition Ceremony, Regional Office, Contact: Monica Espinosa, 7541
RA/Immediate Office
None
Other Events
AWMD

9/14-16/15 – Missouri Recycling Association Conference, Blue Springs, Mo. Contact: Jim Callier, 7646; Jennifer Dawani, 7162
* 9/18/15 – KDHE/EPA air program meeting, Topeka, Kan. Contact: Heather Hamilton, 7039
9/20/15 – National Radon Meeting, Bloomington, Minn. Contacts: Bob Dye/Gina Grier, 7605/7078
9/20-23/15 – American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) Conference on Energy Efficiency as a Resource, Little Rock, Ark. Contact: Lisa Gotto, 7210
* 9/23/15 – Missouri Department of Natural Resources Clean Power Plan Stakeholder forum, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Mike Jay, 7460
9/29-10/1/15 – State/Local/Tribal/EPA Air Meeting, Regional Office. Contact: Lisa Hanlon, 7599
10/6-7/15 – Growing Sustainable Communities Conference, Dubuque, Iowa. Contact: Gary Bertram, 7533
10/12-14/15 – Iowa Recycling Association Conference, Altoona, Iowa. Contact: Jim Callier, 7646
10/12/15 – Kansas Grazing Land Coalition/The Nature Conservancy: Tailgate Presentations on Fall Burning,
Manhattan, Kan. Contact: Gina Grier, 7078
*10/13/15 – MARC Air Quality Forum to discuss Clean Power Plan, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Mike Jay, 7460
* 10/20/15 – Central States Air Resources Assoc. (CenSARA) meeting, Lincoln, Neb. Contacts: Mike Jay, 7460

* 10/28/15 – Nebraska Power Summit to discuss Clean Power Plan, Lincoln, Neb. Contact: Mark Smith, 7876
11/2/15 – Regional Tribal Operations Committee, Presenting on "Air Matters: Healthy Homes Kit", Sloan lowa (Winnebago Tribe), Gina Grier, 7078
CNSL
10/7/15 - NextGen and Enforcement Priorities presentation, National Environmental Health Association Conference, Waterloo, Iowa. Contact: David Cozad, 7587
10/23/15 - Iowa Bar Association Annual Meeting, Des Moines, EPA Update (general update on hot issues, legal developments, and priorities). Contact: David Cozad, 7587
10/27/15 – St. Louis Area Safety Council, EPA Update, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: David Cozad, 7587
ECO
9/17/15 – Public Availability Session for Former United Zinc Superfund Site, Iola, Kan. Contact: Karim Dawani, 7289
*9/21/15 – Columbus Former Manufacturing Gas Plant Public Availability Session, Columbus, Neb. Contact: Pamela Houston, 7699
ENST
*9/14/15 – Tour of Science & Technology Center tour with Ann Dunkin, EPA Chief Information Officer, Contact: Cecilia Tapia, x7733.
*9/15/15 - Coordinate the replacement of the microbial bioreactor (MBR) membranes replacement, ORD

Net Zero research project with DOD, Ft. Riley, Kan., Contact: Brenda Groskinsky, x7188.
11/16-20/15 – Quality Assurance Training at Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Diane Harris, 7258
PLMG
None
RA/OPA
10/6-11/15 – Society of Environmental Journalists 25th Annual Conference, Norman, Okla. Contact David Bryan, 7433; Ben Washburn, 7364
SUPR
10/7-8/15 – Region 7 Regional Response Team meeting, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Scott Hayes, 7670
WWPD
9/15-17/15 – Present at EPA-USDA National Workshop on Water Quality Markets, Lincoln, Nebraska. Contact: Karen Flournoy, 7782, Glenn Curtis, 7726
9/15-16/15 – Speak at Heartland Animal Manure Management Workshop, Nebraska City, Nebraska. Contact: Donna Porter, 7929
9/27-10/1/15 – Ground Water Protection Council Annual Forum, Oklahoma City, Okla. Contact: Kurt Hildebrandt, 7413

10/1/15 – Attend meeting with Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Stephen Pollard, 7582, Karen Flournoy, 7782
10/23/15 – Speak at Iowa State Bar Association, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Karen Flournoy, 7782
Congressional Inquiries:
Rep. Jason Smith (Mo.) – Phone Inquiry – 9/11/15: Congressman Smith requests to meet with Acting RA regarding a CWA case. Due: 9/18/15. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)
Rep. Jason Smith (Mo.) – Phone Inquiry – 9/11/15: Questions about the city of Anniston's lagoon system upgrade. Due: 9/16/15. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)
Rep. Jason Smith (Mo.) – Letter – 9/10/15: City of Rolla industrial park development and cleanup of property. Due: 9/24/15. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)
Sen. Deb Fischer (Neb.) – Email – 9/4/15: Requests EPA to provide a Lead RRP Rule briefing for contractors, property owners and operators in Lincoln. Due: 9/11/15. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)
State Government Inquiries:
None
Press Inquiries:
Inside EPA – Bridget DiCosmo – 8/3/15 – Requesting interview with Acting Regional Administrator Mark Hague on EPA's e-enterprise efforts. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (open)

Lawrence (Kan.) Journal-World – Karen Dillon - 9/10/15 – Questions about asbestos and lead paint inspections for rehabilitation of public buildings. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (open)
Midwest Center for Investigative Reporting – Robert Holly – 9/11/15 – Questions about settlement with Cargill, Inc., for Clean Air Act violations at facility in Eddyville, Iowa. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)
Inside EPA – Bridget DiCosmo – 9/11/15 – Questions about implementation of the Clean Water Rule in Missouri and Nebraska. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (open)
Associated Press, Des Moines Bureau – David Pitt – 9/11/15 – Questions about Iowa's progress with its Clean Water Act Work Plan. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (open)
The Missouri Times – Collin Reischman – 9/11/15 – Seeking EPA Region 7's responses to comments by Missouri Attorney General Kris Koster in regard to the agency's handling of the West Lake Landfill Superfund Site in Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)
Press Releases:
Link to all R7 press releases: http://go.usa.gov/Qx5
None
Fact Sheets:
Link to all R7 fact sheets: http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets
None
Environmental Stories:

KWMU St. Louis Public Radio - Drive for clean air draws Missourians to Washington to try out lobbying - 9/11/15 - Six Missouri residents, all actively involved with environment issues for reasons ranging from financial to religious, traveled to Washington this week to support the Obama administration's Clean Power Plan on Capitol Hill. http://news.stlpublicradio.org/post/drive-clean-air-draws-missourians-washington-try-out-lobbying

KMOV Ch. 4 St. Louis - Residents demand action on contaminated Bridgeton landfill - 9/11/15 - Residents rallied Thursday night, demanding action, after the state released several reports about radioactive contamination outside of the Bridgeton landfill.

http://www.kmov.com/story/30006208/residents-demand-action-on-contaminated-bridgeton-landfill

Springfield (Mo.) News-Leader - Letter: Clean Power Plan saves money, creates jobs - 9/10/15 - The Clean Power Plan tasks states to lower carbon emissions by reducing energy waste and using more low-carbon energy. The modest objective is to reduce carbon emissions by 32 percent. Honestly, the only way to reduce C02 output to cut the amount of fossil fuel burned. http://www.news-leader.com/story/opinion/contributors/2015/09/10/letter-clean-power-plan-saves-money-creates-jobs/72021622/

Lincoln (Neb.) Journal Star - Faith response to climate change subject of talk, discussion - 9/10/15 - The Rev. Kim Morrow will present "What's Love Got to Do With It? The Faith Response to Climate Change" at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 17. Morrow is director of Nebraska Interfaith Power and Light and a climate change resource specialist at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. In July, she was recognized at the White House for her work with faith communities on climate change. http://journalstar.com/news/local/faith-response-to-climate-change-subject-of-talk-discussion/article-2a377dff-867c-5804-8da2-d075fd852034.html

Des Moines Register - Guest Opinion: Climate change worsens our health nationwide - 9/10/15 - The sooner we take action to reduce heat-trapping carbon pollution that is contributing to climate change, the sooner we can improve our nation's health now and for future generations. It is vital that lowa's members of Congress prioritize the health of lowa and support efforts to address climate change today. http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/opinion/contributors/guest-editorials/2015/09/10/climate-change-worsens-our-health-nationwide/71945808/

Topeka (Kan.) Capital-Journal - Westar seeks proposals for subscription-based 'solar garden' - 9/10/15 - Westar Energy is asking for proposals to build a "solar garden" that customers can choose to subscribe to by the end of 2016. http://cjonline.com/news/business/2015-09-10/westar-seeks-proposals-subscription-based-solar-garden

Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Gazette - Federal biofuels grant should expand blender pumps in Iowa - 9/10/15 - Iowa motorists with flex-fuel vehicles may find more options for parchasing gasoline blended

with higher levels of ethanol at service-station pumps thanks to a federal grant the state will be receiving, officials said Thursday. http://www.thegazette.com/subject/news/business/agriculture/federal-biofuels-grant-should-expand-blender-pumps-in-iowa-20150910

E&E News - Ozone's travels create scientific puzzle, political muddle - 9/10/15 - This much is true: Air pollution from Asia crosses the Pacific Ocean to North America. Also true: Some of that pollution can hamstring efforts in the western United States to meet federal Clean Air Act standards for ozone, a component of smog. http://www.eenews.net/stories/1060024488

Quad-City Times - Water complaints continue in Columbus Junction - 9/10/15 - Columbus Junction officials may feel the city's water quality is improving, but one resident, Judy Sievers, 210 Orchard, is not so sure. She told city officials during Wednesday's city council meeting she was still seeing and hearing reports of poor water in the community. http://qctimes.com/news/local/water-complaints-continue-in-columbus-junction/article-1ef2d170-2636-5ba2-9726-8452ba776965.html

lowa Public Radio - Cheaper, Easier Monitoring Could Hasten Water Clean-up - 9/11/15 - Throughout the cropland of the Midwest, farmers use chemicals on their fields to nourish the plants and the soil. But excess nitrogen, phosphorus and other nutrients can wash off the fields and into streams, rivers and eventually the Gulf of Mexico. http://iowapublicradio.org/post/cheaper-easier-monitoring-could-hasten-water-clean

Park Hills (Mo.) Daily Journal - Commission hears unsettling 'watershed' update - 9/11/15 - The St. Francois County Commission received an unsettling report about remediation funds set aside for the Big River Watershed area. The report was delivered when the commission met in regular session Tuesday morning. http://dailyjournalonline.com/news/local/commission-hears-unsettling-watershed-update/article_d699a98f-e62e-580b-a0e4-13ce3153e1fc.html

Fremont (Neb.) Tribune - NRDs to acquire water rights on the Niobrara - 9/11/15 - Three typically competing interests known more for butting heads than cooperating over water rights have negotiated an agreement that, if successful, would be a major shift in the management of the Niobrara River. At the center of the deal are water rights owned by the Nebraska Public Power District for running its Spencer Hydroelectric Dam. http://fremonttribune.com/news/local/nrds-to-acquire-water-rights-on-the-niobrara/article-9f3aa4d8-ced5-5360-adb5-91b97b7d7f57.html

Omaha World-Herald - NPPD to shut down Spencer Dam hydropower plant, give up water rights on Niobrara River - 9/11/15 - Nebraska Public Power District will shut down its hydropower plant at Spencer Dam on the Niobrara River and give up its water rights on the popular canoing stream. http://www.omaha.com/news/nebraska/nppd-to-shut-down-spencer-dam-hydropower-plant-give-up/article-9d00c0e6-57d6-11e5-86d6-1ffdfd8a6188.html

Joplin (Mo.) Globe - Empire District Electric Co. building combined-cycle power plant at Riverton – 9/10/15 - The Riverton Power Plant, which provided hydro- and coal-fired electricity for the Tri-State Mining District more than a hundred years ago, is entering a new phase as the first combined-cycle power plant in Kansas. To comply with new emission standards for mercury, sulfur dioxide and particulate matter set by EPA, Empire District Electric Co. has converted the plant from coal to natural gas, retiring two coal-fired units that had operated since the 1950s.

http://www.joplinglobe.com/news/local_news/empire-district-electric-co-building-combined-cycle-power-plant-at/article_e68fa138-013c-5713-951d-abc979d9daf5.html

Quad-City Times - Muscatine mulls port authority - 9/10/15 - Muscatine could be a hub of more water transportation, taking trucks off the road. David Gobin, Community Development Director, presented to Muscatine City Council on Thursday on the possibility of Muscatine becoming a port authority for intermodal container barges. http://qctimes.com/news/muscatine-mulls-port-authority/article_6324db7a-462c-5ccc-9d3a-700d9b9915be.html

Ethanol Producer Magazine - Ethanol industry disputes API's ethanol claims - 9/10/15 - Ethanol blends are a benefit, not a burden to consumers, the ethanol industry says. The U.S. fuel ethanol industry has dismissed the American Petroleum Institute's latest diatribe on the Renewable Fuel Standard, saying the API's assertions are false and an effort to restrict American consumers' fuel choice. http://www.ethanolproducer.com/articles/12613/ethanol-industry-disputes-apiundefineds-ethanol-claims

Cedar Republican (Cedar County, Mo.) - Missouri farm advocacy group backs ruling against Clean Water Rule - 9/10/15 - Applauded by opponents of the rule, federal district court judge Ralph Ericson on Friday, Aug. 28 stopped the EPA from enforcing the rule and said states like Missouri "have demonstrated that they will face irreparable harm." http://cedarrepublican.com/news/missouri-farm-advocacy-group-backs-ruling-against-clean-water-rule/article_be6b18a6-566b-11e5-84e1-e7bd16dcc2d7.html

Tri-State Neighbor - Bioreactors, cover crops touted as pathways to cleaner water - 9/11/15 - lowa's biggest city is taking aim at agricultural counties over runoff polluting its drinking water, and at least one commodity group is pushing farmers to take a proactive approach to improve water quality. http://www.tristateneighbor.com/news/crop/bioreactors-cover-crops-touted-as-pathways-to-cleaner-water/article 0ea1f79e-51ae-11e5-8b4b-bf3e6c37e394.html

Science Magazine - Feature: There's too much carbon dioxide in the air. Why not turn it back into fuel? - 9/11/15 - Stuart Licht has designed the ultimate recycling machine. The solar reactor that he and colleagues built in his lab at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., takes carbon dioxide (CO2) from the atmosphere—a byproduct of fossil fuel combustion—and uses the energy in sunlight to turn it back into fuel. http://news.sciencemag.org/chemistry/2015/09/feature-there-s-too-much-carbon-dioxide-air-why-not-turn-it-back-fuel

Midwest Energy News - Federal ruling could resolve lowa school district's solar dispute - 9/11/15 - A ruling made earlier this summer by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) could clear away the road block that has been hindering a solar project proposed by a rural lowa school district, according to a lawyer familiar with the situation. http://midwestenergynews.com/2015/09/11/federal-ruling-could-resolve-iowa-school-districts-solar-dispute/

Politico - Obama's smog plan splits black leaders - 9/10/15 - The administration is slated to tighten the restrictions for ozone, the pollutant that causes smog, by Oct. 1, but some African-American state and local politicians are lining up with business groups to warn that the clampdown would hurt poor communities and manufacturing centers like Gary, Ind., and St. Louis. http://www.politico.com/story/2015/09/epa-smog-rule-battle-lines-drawn-in-poor-communities-213481

The Legal Intelligencer (Penn.) - Emergency Demand-Response Provisions of EPA's RICE Rule - 9/11/15 - The "emergency" designation is critical, because RICE in this category are only subject to relatively painless work practice standards. Non-emergency RICE, by contrast, generally have to meet numeric emission limits that are often unachievable without the installation of costly add-on controls, particularly for older engines. http://www.thelegalintelligencer.com/id=1202736888817/Emergency-DemandResponse-Provisions-of-EPAs-RICE-Rule

Mother Jones - Federal Court to EPA: No, You Can't Approve This Pesticide That Kills Bees - 9/11/15 - "I am inclined to believe the EPA...decided to register sulfoxaflor unconditionally in response to public pressure for the product and attempted to support its decision retroactively with studies it had previously found inadequate," said a circuit judge. http://www.motherjones.com/tom-philpott/2015/09/federal-court-nixes-epa-approval-pesticide-known-be-highly-toxic-honey-bees

Reuters - U.S. court finds EPA was wrong to approve Dow pesticide harmful to bees - 9/10/15 - A U.S. appeals court ruled on Thursday that federal regulators erred in allowing an insecticide developed by Dow AgroSciences onto the market, canceling its approval and giving environmentalists a major victory. http://news.yahoo.com/u-court-finds-epa-wrong-approve-dow-pesticide-184509403--finance.html

Energy Global - API: US ethanol mandates could harm the economy - 9/11/15 - The statutory biofuel mandates under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) are infeasible to achieve in 2015 and beyond and could cause severe harm to consumers and the US economy, according to a study by NERA Economic Consulting released by the API. http://www.energyglobal.com/downstream/clean-fuels/10092015/API-US-ethanol-mandates-could-harm-the-economy-1376/

Liberty Blog - The lesson of the Animas River spell - 9/10/15 - Let's hope that something positive comes from the Animas River disaster: that EPA realizes its no holds barred approach to enforcing these laws is unjust. As Wehrum concludes in his op-ed, "What's just for the EPA surely is just for those it

Huffington Post - Environmental Concern Empowers the People - 9/10/15 - Environmental awareness, once enjoyed only by a niche group within society, has mushroomed in the last decade so that today it directly drives changes in consumers' purchasing behaviors. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/brian-kennell/environmental-concern-emp b 8105580.html

Washington Times - A second try at cap-and-trade - 9/10/15 - Democrats embracing President Obama's carbon-regulating Clean Power Plan may want to be cautious and consider recent history. http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2015/sep/7/mike-duncan-obamas-clean-power-plan-could-cost-dem/

Phys.org - Pattern of winners and losers explains US policy on fuel subsidies - 9/11/15 - The politics of climate change are often depicted as a simple battle, between environmentalists and particular industries, over government policy. That's not wrong, but it's only a rough sketch of the matter. http://phys.org/news/2015-09-pattern-winners-losers-policy-fuel.html

The Week - How the U.S. is ceding a huge energy advantage to the developing world - 9/11/15 - limate change doom-and-gloomers need to start cheering up? Jonathan Chait thinks so. "This is the year humans finally got serious about saving themselves from themselves" is the subtitle of his new long read in New York magazine. http://theweek.com/articles/576493/how-ceding-huge-energy-advantage-developing-world

The Hill (blog) - Smart policy ushering in a new energy paradigm - 9/10/15 - As natural disasters become more frequent and weather patterns less predictable, continuing to create and implement smart energy policies remains one of the best tools available to get to "benign outcomes." One such policy that is quickly gaining purchase across the U.S. is Community Choice Aggregation (CCA). http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/energy-environment/253138-smart-policy-ushering-in-a-new-energy-paradigm

The Hill (blog) - How states can best promote clean power - 9/10/15 - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has finalized new rules requiring states to curb greenhouse gases from America's power sector. The Clean Power Plan gives each state the ability and flexibility to use their own ideas on how best to achieve these reductions. One proven, cost-effective approach is the use of market forces to drive innovation and efficiency. http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/energy-environment/253124-how-states-can-best-promote-clean-power

Ethanol Producer - US cannot abandon biofuels global leadership - 9/10/15 - We have accomplished too much, and the future is too bright for the U.S. to abdicate its leadership on renewable fuels now,

writes Bliss Baker of GRFA. http://www.ethanolproducer.com/articles/12599/us-cannot-abandon-biofuels-global-leadership

Reuters - US oil producers thirsty for cash eye wastewater unit spin-offs - 9/11/15 - Some U.S. oil producers are trying to sell parts of their lucrative saltwater disposal businesses in a sign that cheap crude is already forcing cash-starved companies to sell assets so oil can keep flowing. http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/09/11/usa-oil-water-idUSL1N10N29220150911

Huffington Post (blog) The 'Fat Tail' of Climate Change Risk - 9/11/15 - One of the most underappreciated aspects of the climate change problem is the so-called "fat tail" of risk. In short, the likelihood of very large impacts is greater than we would expect under typical statistical assumptions. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/michael-e-mann/the-fat-tail-of-climate-change-risk b 8116264.html

CNN (Opinion) - Your climate change questions answered - 9/11/15 - CNN columnist John D. Sutter is reporting on a tiny number -- 2 degrees -- that may have a huge effect on the future. He'd like your help. There are studies and surveys that have found an overwhelming majority of scientists who study climate change agree that the climate is warming and that humans are responsible for it. http://www.cnn.com/2015/09/11/opinions/your-climate-questions-two-degrees/

Quartz - Climate scientists undermine their own science by avoiding the best case scenario - 9/11/15 - I believe most people can make smart decisions when faced with risk—they just need to have it explained to them the right way. We also know that humans are largely to blame for climate change. But our precise share is hard to know. There still exists considerable uncertainty around the consequences of climate change. http://qz.com/491748/climate-change-and-uncertainty/

Think Progress - In Radical Shift, GOP Leaders Actively Embrace Catastrophic Climate Change - 9/11/15 - Over the past year, GOP leaders, driven by Senate majority leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY), have made a radical shift in the party's public position on climate change. They are now actively seeking to destroy a global climate deal. http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2015/09/11/3700163/gop-leaders-embrace-climate-change/